

EPA Brownfields Supplemental Assistance

Clearwater, FL

Outreach and Special Projects Staff (5105)

Quick Reference Fact Sheet

EPA's Brownfields Economic Redevelopment Initiative is designed to empower states, communities, and other stakeholders in economic redevelopment to work together in a timely manner to prevent, assess, safely clean up, and sustainably reuse brownfields. A brownfield is a site, or portion thereof, that has actual or perceived contamination and an active potential for redevelopment or reuse. EPA is funding: assessment demonstration pilot programs (each funded up to \$200,000 over two years), to assess brownfields sites and to test cleanup and redevelopment models; job training pilot programs (each funded up to \$200,000 over two years), to provide training for residents of communities affected by brownfields to facilitate cleanup of brownfields sites and prepare trainees for future employment in the environmental field; and, cleanup revolving loan fund programs (each funded up to \$500,000 over five years) to capitalize loan funds to make loans for the environmental cleanup of brownfields. These pilot programs are intended to provide EPA, states, tribes, municipalities, and communities with useful information and strategies as they continue to seek new methods to promote a unified approach to site assessment, environmental cleanup, and redevelopment.

BACKGROUND

EPA awarded the City of Clearwater supplemental assistance for its Brownfields Assessment Demonstration Pilot and additional funding for assessments at brownfields properties to be used for greenspace purposes. Clearwater's brownfields activities focus on a conglomeration of small industrial, commercial, and residential entities that were built on the fill of former wetlands as part of urban redevelopment activities 40 years ago. A large-scale business exodus from the area now described as the Clearwater Brownfields Area (CBA) has contributed to urban decline. The 1,800-acre CBA is located in a state-designated Enterprise Zone. Thirty-three percent of all residents in the surrounding neighborhoods live below the poverty level, and the area accounts for more than 60 percent of the city's crime.

The original Clearwater Pilot began assessment and outreach activities in the CBA, including developing a strategic environmental justice plan, but additional funding is needed to continue efforts to revitalize this critical area in the heart of the city.

PILOT SNAPSHOT



Clearwater, Florida

Date of Announcement:
March 2000

Amount: \$50,000
Greenspace: \$50,000

Profile: The Pilot targets potentially contaminated properties within the 1,800-acre Clearwater Brownfields Area (CBA).

Contacts:

City Manager's Office
City of Clearwater
(757) 562-4023

Regional Brownfields Team
U.S. EPA - Region 4
(404) 562-8661

Visit the EPA Region 4 Brownfields web site at:
<http://www.epa.gov/region4/wastepgs/brownfpgs/bf.htm>

For further information, including specific Pilot contacts, additional Pilot information, brownfields news and events, and publications and links, visit the EPA Brownfields web site at:
<http://www.epa.gov/brownfields/>

OBJECTIVES AND PLANNED ACTIVITIES

Clearwater's ultimate objective is to eliminate potential health and safety hazards by having the CBA sites cleaned up and returned to productive reuse, to benefit the city and its citizens. Clearwater will use the supplemental assistance Pilot to further this goal by preparing reuse plans and involving stakeholders, including affected communities, in the cleanup and redevelopment planning process. The Pilot will select sites to target out of 217 potential properties in the CBA.

The Pilot will use the greenspace funding to support at least three greenspace creation and improvement projects. One such project—the Stevenson Creek Ecosystem Restoration Project and Associated Park Land—is designed to clean up and restore Stevenson Creek, which flows through the heart of Clearwater's largest minority neighborhood and discharges into the Clearwater Harbor (connected to the Gulf of Mexico). Clearwater's strategic environmental justice plan has identified the cleanup and restoration of this creek as its first priority. Other projects include the creation of urban parks, open space, a town pond, and a community center.

To accomplish these objectives, the Pilot plans to:

- Develop reuse plans for selected sites in the CBA;
- Perform Phase I and II assessments of selected greenspace properties; and
- Involve the community and other stakeholders in the CBA and greenspace efforts through meetings, forums, newsletters, and a web site.

The cooperative agreement for this Pilot has not yet been negotiated; therefore, activities described in this fact sheet are subject to change.